

Changes to the Specifications and Requirements for Software Approved by USDA for Use with Nutrient Standard Menu Planning (NSMP) from 1999 – 2007

March 2008

1. USDA Child Nutrition Database (CN Database) incorporated into software

Creating a Smaller Working Database

Software vendors or users can create a customized user-database established upon a reduced number of food items selected from the CN database to meet user's inventory and specific menu planning needs. This can be accomplished by deactivating CN food items so that users may search through a smaller database during menu planning. The entire CN database must still be available to the user to accommodate menu additions. The user must know that items have been deactivated/removed and have the knowledge and ability to add the items back into their database. It was also recommended that a list of the items made unavailable be provided. (October 7, 1999, Software Vendor Meeting with USDA)

CN Database Items with Status of "d"

The status field of the CN Database is intended to indicate to users of USDA-Approved Software which food items and other data, such as weights, are active as designated by an "a" in the status field and which food items are being discontinued and therefore designated by a "d" in the status field. The contractor managing the CN Database will not remove food descriptions marked with a "d" until the next release. This is intended to notify users of approved software that products they may have been incorporating into menus will no longer be included in the next release of the CN Database and will provide software users with ample time to replace the product. Please ensure that your software does not interfere with this alert mechanism intended to inform the end users when product data will no longer be available. **The data marked with "d" should not be removed prematurely from the program's database until it is physically removed from the CN Database at the next Release.** (11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

Differentiating Between Data Containing Zeros and Missing Data

Nutrient data represented by a zero means that the food item was tested for that nutrient, but there was no amount of that nutrient found in the food. For example, a value of zero for food energy or calories means that this food contains no calories. Values of zero are not to be interpreted as missing values or blanks; they must remain zeros. Please notify FNS if you find any food items with missing values or blanks for any of the 12 required nutrients: protein, total fat, carbohydrate, food energy, total dietary fiber, calcium, iron, sodium, vitamin A in IU, vitamin C, cholesterol, and saturated fat. Foods that do not provide values for all 12 required nutrients should not be included in the CN Database.

In the case of optional nutrients (ash, moisture, vitamin A in RE and with CN 10 - trans fat),

blank nutrient values may exist. Blank nutrient values are not to be interpreted as zeros. Blank nutrient values should be interpreted and marked as missing values; for example, an asterisk with a footnote would indicate that the optional nutrient value has not been provided. Additionally, any nutrient total containing a missing value must also be indicated as missing nutrient data. **Use of a zero to represent a missing value is incorrect.** Optional nutrients are the only acceptable nutrients to be assigned missing values in the CN Database. (11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

Source Tags

Starting with CN11 in 2007, source tags used for CN Database items must be different from source tags used for user- or developer-added items. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

2. Create, Update, and Save Food Ingredients to the Local Database

Item Numbers 900,000 through 999,999

It was determined at the Software Vendor Meeting, held on October 7, 1999, that USDA will reserve CNP codes 900,000 through 999,999 for local input. This range was chosen so that locally added data would not be overwritten or be required to change the CNP code. If the data in the CN Database reach the 900,000 range, FNS will increase the data field to seven digits and leave the designated range for local input undisturbed. The letter to the software industry executives outlining the vendor meeting and the meeting minutes have been enclosed for your reference. Please ensure that your software utilizes the designated range of 900,000 – 999,999 for all locally added data. (Programs that require the user to set up a separate “working” or “inventory” database may not need to follow this numbering system.) (October 7, 1999, Software Vendor Meeting with USDA and 11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

3. Nutrition Labeling Conversion

Percent Daily Value for Vitamin A

Starting with CN11, the user should only be able to enter a percent Daily Value for vitamin A for IU. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

4. Ingredient Quantity Conversions

Universal Conversions Required by USDA

Starting with CN11, all universal conversions must be tagged as locally-added. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

Global Conversions by Developer

Starting with CN11, any global (for all food items) conversions to additional units of measure provided by the software developer must be tagged with a source code, so it is clear to the user that the source is not USDA's CN Database. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

Fluid Ounce, Liter, and Milliliter

It is required that there are *no* automatic conversions to fluid ounce, milliliter and liter measurements by USDA-approved software. It is acceptable for these measurements, typically used for liquids, to be included only if the data is presented this way in the Weights Table of the CN Database. The developer or user may also add this data, but global conversions to these measures for all foods is not permitted. (CN10 Announcement 3/15/2006)

5. Quantity Recipes

Fractions

It is required that fractions be used on recipe reports, including scaled/yield-adjusted recipes. (CN10 Announcement 3/15/2006)

USDA Production Recipes

FNS has completed the revisions to the *USDA Recipes for Child Nutrition Programs*. If your software program incorporates these recipes as recipes with ingredients and preparation instructions, your software product will need to be updated to include the new and revised USDA Recipes or remove them altogether. You may access these recipes from the following URL:

http://www.nfsmi.org/Information/school_recipe_index_alpha.html(11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

Starting with CN11 in 2007, the USDA production recipes entered by the developer must be tagged as developer-added USDA recipes. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

Starting with CN11 in 2007, the USDA production recipes must be locked and a copy must be made before the user edits the recipe. (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

Starting with CN11 in 2007, the nutrient analysis of the USDA production recipe must be shown as the USDA analysis (using a link) or the yield factor method of analysis (using calculation). (CN11 Announcement, April 6, 2007)

6. **Nutrient Composition Data Report**
7. **Creation of Menus (Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack)**
8. **Menu Report**
9. **Menu Production Report**
10. **Missing Food/Recipe Items**
11. **Nutrient Standards for Meals and Age (based on the RDA's)**

Trans Fat

At this time, there is no nutrient standard established by the Child Nutrition Programs for trans fat. (11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

Custom or User-Added Standards

The customizing of nutrient levels not specifically required by regulation to a particular State's request was discussed. The nutrients requested are sodium, cholesterol, and fiber. Since there is no specific level set by Federal regulation the States are not prohibited from setting a specific level. The customizing of nutrient standards not specifically required by regulation is not a problem for FNS as long as required nutrient standard information is unaffected. The customizing of nutrient standards not specifically required by regulation is not a problem for FNS as long as required nutrient standard information is unaffected. (October 7, 1999, Software Vendor Meeting with USDA)

Entire Day Standards

FNS currently has no all day nutrient standards. If the software vendors want to provide all day nutrient standards for a client, FNS has no problem as long as the nutrient standard information required by FNS can still be separated out and supplied to FNS. Required nutrient standard information must be unaffected. All day nutrient standards would be considered outside of our requirements. (October 7, 1999, Software Vendor Meeting with USDA)

12. **Weighted Nutritional Analysis**
13. **Default Nutrients**

Trans Fat

Release 10 of the CN Database (CN10) will include the addition of trans fat as an *optional* nutrient that manufacturers can provide for monitoring purposes. The Standard Reference is already including trans fat data whenever available.
(11/1/2005 letter to software developers)

- 14. Nutrient Food Source List**
- 15. Training Documents**
- 16. Functional Requirement**
- 17. Performance Requirement**
- 18. Database Management System**
- 19. Memory Size and Hard Disk**
- 20. Data Recovery**
- 21. Error Messages and Miscellaneous**

4/17/2007